Effect of FTA with Japan

†1972. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the Free Trade Agreement to be signed between India and Japan in the coming days can pose a threat to Indian genetic drug industry;

(b) if so, the clarification of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government wants to bring misuse of patent laws under the purview of criminal liability; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) FTA with Japan is under negotiation and the terms of the Agreement are far from being finalized.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Decline in export due to erosion in demand in international market

1973. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's exports have suffered due to erosion in demand from the international market during the recent and current global economic meltdown;

(b) if so, how India's export during 2008-09 fell as compared to those during 2007-08 and 2006-07; and

(c) the main items of export in respect of which the trade has considerably come down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Quick Estimates of monthly trade statistics compiled by DGCI&S indicate declining trend in India's merchandise exports during the last few months. While there are various contributory factors, recession, particularly in the developed countries leading to erosion in demand, is a significant factor. Sectors affected by Global Recession in terms of reduction in exports in 2008-09 as per data provided by DGCI&S are Marine Products, Iron Ore, Gems & Jewellery, Cotton Yarn/Fabrics/Made-ups, Carpets, Handicrafts, Project Goods, Plastics & Linoleum etc. Merchandise Exports figures for last three years are indicated below:—

(Value in US$ billion)

Year	Exports	% Growth
2006-07	126.26	22.5
2007-08	163.12	29.2
2008-09	168.70	3.4

Data Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.